

**Introduced by Senator Scott**

February 23, 2006

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An act to amend Sections 44392 and 44393 of the Education Code, relating to paraprofessional teachers.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 1533, as introduced, Scott. Paraprofessional teachers.

(1) Existing law establishes the California School Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program for the purpose of recruiting paraprofessionals to participate in a program designed to encourage them to enroll in teacher training programs and to provide instructional service as teachers in the public schools. Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in consultation with certain other educational entities, to select, pursuant to specified criteria, 24 or more school districts or county offices of education representing rural, urban, and suburban areas that apply to participate in the program.

This bill would modify the criteria for selection of applicant school districts and county offices of education by requiring consideration of the extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment includes candidate selection criteria based, in part, on demonstrated classroom performance and success in professional development activities provided by the applicant.

(2) Existing law requires a school district or county office of education to require a person participating in the program to commit to accomplishing certain requirements relating to obtaining a teaching credential and employment as a teacher in the district.

This bill would add to the specified requirements that the participant obtain a certificate of clearance from the commission under certain provisions of existing law before enrollment.

(3) Existing law requires a program participant to repay assistance received under the program if he or she fails to accomplish the specified requirements.

This bill would authorize a participant to appeal the repayment conditions to the school district or county office of education for good cause, including situations beyond a participant's control, such as illness or family care needs.

The bill would authorize a school district or county office of education to determine that service to the school district or county office of education in a capacity other than as a classroom teacher complies with a specified requirement relating to employment as a teacher in the district, if a participant demonstrates to the school district or the county office of education that a good-faith effort has been made to complete the teacher preparation program, and the participant has been unable to meet specified credentialing requirements.

The bill would require that repayments collected by school districts and county offices of education under the program revert to the General Fund on an annual basis.

(4) Existing law requires the commission to contract with an independent evaluator with a proven record of experience in assessing career-advancement programs or teacher training programs to determine the success of the training program.

This bill would specify that this requirement is contingent upon funding being provided therefor in the Budget Act of 2008.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 44392 of the Education Code is  
2 amended to read:  
3 44392. For the purposes of this article, unless the context  
4 clearly requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the  
5 following meanings:  
6 (a) "Applicant" means a school district or county office of  
7 education applying for program funds under the California  
8 School Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program established  
9 under Section 44393.  
10 (a)

1 (b) “Institutions of higher education” means the California  
2 Community Colleges, the California State University, the  
3 University of California, and private institutions of higher  
4 education that offer an accredited teacher training program.

5 ~~(b)~~

6 (c) “Program” means the California School Paraprofessional  
7 Teacher Training Program established pursuant to Section 44393.

8 ~~(c)~~

9 (d) “Teaching paraprofessional” means the following job  
10 classifications: educational aide, special education aide, special  
11 education assistant, teacher associate, teacher assistant, teacher  
12 aide, pupil service aide, library aide, child development aide,  
13 child development assistant, and physical education aide.

14 ~~(d)~~

15 (e) “Teacher training program” means any undergraduate or  
16 graduate program of instruction conducted by a campus of an  
17 institution of higher education that includes a developmentally  
18 sequenced career ladder to provide instruction, coursework, and  
19 clearly defined tasks for each level of the ladder, and that is  
20 designed to qualify students enrolled in the program for a  
21 teaching credential authorizing instruction in kindergarten and  
22 grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

23 SEC. 2. Section 44393 of the Education Code is amended to  
24 read:

25 44393. (a) The California School Paraprofessional Teacher  
26 Training Program is hereby established for the purpose of  
27 recruiting paraprofessionals to participate in a program designed  
28 to encourage them to enroll in teacher training programs and to  
29 provide instructional service as teachers in the public schools.

30 (b) The Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in consultation  
31 with the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, the  
32 Chancellor of the California State University, the President of the  
33 University of California, the chancellors of private institutions of  
34 higher education that offer accredited teacher training programs,  
35 and representatives of certificated and classified employee  
36 organizations, shall select 24 or more school districts or county  
37 offices of education representing rural, urban, and suburban areas  
38 that apply to participate in the program. The commission shall  
39 ensure that, at a minimum, a total of 600 school  
40 paraprofessionals are recruited from among the 24 or more

1 participating school districts or county offices of education. The  
2 criteria adopted by the commission for the selection of school  
3 districts or county offices of education to participate in the  
4 program shall include all of the following:

5 (1) The extent to which the applicant ~~school district or county~~  
6 ~~office of education~~ demonstrates the capacity and willingness to  
7 accommodate the participation of school paraprofessionals ~~of the~~  
8 ~~school~~ in teacher training programs conducted at institutions of  
9 higher education.

10 (2) The extent to which the applicant's plan for the  
11 implementation of its recruitment program involves the active  
12 participation of one or more local campuses of the participating  
13 institutions of higher education in the development of  
14 coursework and teaching programs for participating school  
15 paraprofessionals. Each selected ~~school district or county office~~  
16 ~~of education~~ *applicant* shall be required to enter into a written  
17 articulation agreement with the participating campuses of the  
18 institutions of higher education.

19 (3) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment  
20 attempts to meet the demand for bilingual-crosscultural teachers.

21 (4) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment  
22 attempts to meet the demand for multiple subject credentialed  
23 teachers interested in teaching kindergarten or any of grades 1 to  
24 3, inclusive. For purposes of this paragraph, each  
25 paraprofessional selected to participate shall have completed at  
26 least two years of undergraduate college or university  
27 coursework and shall have demonstrated an interest in obtaining  
28 a multiple subject teaching credential for teaching kindergarten  
29 or any of grades 1 to 3, inclusive.

30 (5) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment  
31 attempts to meet the demand for special education teachers.

32 (6) The extent to which ~~the applicant's plan for recruitment~~  
33 ~~includes~~ a developmentally sequenced series of job descriptions  
34 ~~that lead~~ *leads* from an entry-level school paraprofessional  
35 position to an entry-level teaching position in that school district  
36 or county office of education.

37 (7) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment  
38 attempts to meet its ~~own~~ specific teacher needs.

39 (8) The extent to which the applicant's plan for  
40 implementation of its recruitment program involves participation

1 in a district internship program pursuant to Sections 44325,  
2 44326, 44327, 44328, and 44830.3 or a university internship  
3 program pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 44450)  
4 of Chapter 3.

5 (9) *The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment*  
6 *includes candidate selection criteria based, in part, on*  
7 *demonstrated classroom performance and success in*  
8 *professional development activities provided by the applicant.*

9 (c) ~~Each selected school district or county office of education~~  
10 ~~applicant~~ shall provide information and assistance to each school  
11 paraprofessional it recruits under the program regarding  
12 admission to a teacher training program.

13 (d) (1) ~~The school district or county office of education~~  
14 ~~applicant~~ shall recruit and organize groups, or "cohorts," of  
15 school paraprofessionals, of no more than 30, and no less than  
16 10, in each cohort. Cohorts shall be organized to consist of  
17 school paraprofessionals having approximately equal academic  
18 experience and qualifications, as determined by the school  
19 district or county office of education. To the extent possible, the  
20 members of each cohort shall proceed through the same subject  
21 matter and credential programs. The members of each cohort  
22 shall enroll in the same campus and shall be provided ~~by the~~  
23 ~~school district or county office of education with~~ appropriate  
24 support and information throughout the course of their studies *by*  
25 *the applicant.*

26 (2) ~~Each school district or county office of education applicant~~  
27 shall certify that it has received a commitment from each  
28 member of a cohort that he or she will accomplish all of the  
29 following:

30 (A) *Obtain a certificate of clearance from the commission*  
31 *under Sections 44339, 44340, and 44341 before enrollment.*

32 ~~(A)~~

33 (B) Graduate from an institution of higher education under the  
34 program with a bachelor's degree.

35 ~~(B)~~

36 (C) Complete all of the requirements for and obtain a multiple  
37 subject, single subject, or education specialist teaching  
38 credential.

39 ~~(C)~~

1 (D) Complete one school year of classroom instruction in the  
2 district or county office of education for each *full year* ~~that or~~  
3 *full-year equivalent of coursework for which* he or she receives  
4 assistance for books, fees, and tuition while attending an  
5 institution of higher education under the program.

6 (3) To the extent that any participant does not fulfill his or her  
7 obligations, as set forth in paragraph (2), the participant shall be  
8 required to repay the assistance *to the program sponsor*. If a  
9 participant is laid off, the participant ~~may~~ *shall* not be required to  
10 repay the assistance until the participant is offered reemployment  
11 and has an opportunity to fulfill his or her obligations under this  
12 section. *A participant may appeal the repayment conditions to*  
13 *the school district or county office of education for good cause,*  
14 *including, but not limited to, situations beyond a participant's*  
15 *control, such as illness or family care needs.*

16 (4) *A school district or county office of education may*  
17 *determine that service to the school district or county office of*  
18 *education in a capacity other than as a multiple subject, single*  
19 *subject, or special education classroom teacher complies with*  
20 *the requirements of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (2), if a*  
21 *participant demonstrates to the school district or the county*  
22 *office of education that a good-faith effort has been made to*  
23 *complete the teacher preparation program, and the participant*  
24 *has been unable to meet specified credentialing requirements.*

25 (5) *Repayments collected by school districts and county offices*  
26 *of education shall revert to the General Fund on an annual basis.*

27 (e) ~~The~~ *Contingent upon funding being provided for this*  
28 *purpose in the Budget Act of 2008, the commission shall contract*  
29 *with an independent evaluator with a proven record of experience*  
30 *in assessing career-advancement programs or teacher training*  
31 *programs to determine the success of the recruitment programs*  
32 *established pursuant to subdivision (b). The evaluation shall be*  
33 ~~made on an annual basis and shall~~ *include, but is not be limited*  
34 *to, all of the following:*

35 (1) The total cost per person participating in the program who  
36 successfully obtains a teaching credential, based upon all state,  
37 local, federal, and other sources of funding.

38 (2) The economic status of persons participating in the ~~pilot~~  
39 program.

1 (3) A description of financial and other resources made  
2 available to each recruitment program by participating school  
3 districts or county offices of education, institutions of higher  
4 education, and other participating organizations.

5 (4) The extent to which pupil performance on standardized  
6 achievement tests has improved in classes taught by teachers who  
7 have successfully completed the program, in comparison to  
8 classes taught by other teachers who have equivalent teaching  
9 experience.

10 (5) The extent to which pupil dropout rates and other measures  
11 of delinquency have improved in classes taught by teachers who  
12 have successfully completed the program.

13 (6) The extent to which teachers who have successfully  
14 completed the program remain in the communities in which they  
15 reside and in which they teach.

16 (7) The attrition rate of teachers who have successfully  
17 completed the program.

18 (f) Each selected school district or county office of education  
19 shall report to the commission regarding the progress of each  
20 cohort of school paraprofessionals, and other information  
21 regarding its recruitment program as the commission may direct.

22 (g) No later than January 1 of each year, the commission shall  
23 report to the Legislature regarding the status of the ~~pilot~~ program,  
24 including, but not limited to, the number of school  
25 paraprofessionals recruited, the academic progress of the school  
26 paraprofessionals recruited, the number of school  
27 paraprofessionals recruited who are subsequently employed as  
28 teachers in the public schools, the degree to which the program  
29 meets the demand for bilingual and special education teachers *as*  
30 *well as meeting teacher needs in shortage areas as determined*  
31 *by the school district or county office of education*, the degree to  
32 which the program or similar programs can meet that demand if  
33 properly funded and executed, and other effects upon the  
34 operation of the public schools.

35 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature that each fiscal year,  
36 funding for the California School Paraprofessional Teacher  
37 Training Program be allocated to the Commission on Teacher  
38 Credentialing for grants to school districts pursuant to this  
39 section. In no case shall grants to any school district exceed the  
40 equivalent of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) annually per

- 1 paraprofessional in the program. Funding for grants to school
- 2 districts pursuant to this subdivision, shall be contingent upon an
- 3 appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

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